- Induction of dedicated freighter aircrafts for transmission of mail between Metro Cities and North East Sectors;
- Upgradation of services at Speed Post Centres;
- Providing track and trace services;
- Collection of Speed Post articles from the customers' premises.

Set up of I.T.S. officers in BSNL

3098. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced a scheme to set up I.T.S. officers in BSNL;

(b) the reasons for delay in its implementation; and

(c) the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) On the eve of formation of BSNL on 01.10.2000, I.T.S (Indian Telecommunications Service) officers were transferred to BSNL on deemed deputation. The process for permanent absorption of I.T.S officers in BSNL/MTNL was initiated by the Government in March 2005, the matter is under litigation in various courts of the country.

(c) It is not possible to give any fixed time frame for completion of absorption process.

VRS in BSNL

3099. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a burden of employees in the BSNL;

(b) whether there is any proposal for a voluntary retirement scheme;

(c) if so, the future plans in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the expenditure of BSNL on manpower is about 33% of its total income as compared to 5-8% in case of its competitors.

(b) to (d) Presently there is no proposal for voluntary retirement scheme in BSNL. However, BSNL has engaged M/s Boston Consulting Group (BCG) for advising and providing handholding support in identifying problems and developing strategy keeping in view the changed market conditions.